

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADANA 000145

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [ADANA](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JULY 20, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 20, 2005.

Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SABAH (GUNEY)/ BOLGE: Turk Telekom (The newly privatized Turkish Communication Company) workers in Adana refused to attend work for half a day to stage a protest against the company's privatization. The workers are protesting the transfer of some Telekom services to a subcontractor company, which was awarded a contract.

2. BOLGE / EKSPRES / ZAMAN: Turkish Desk Senior Official Baxter Hunt and the U.S. Adana Consul paid a visit to the Seyhan district mayor Azim Ozturk obtaining information about the services rendered by the Municipality.

3. SABAH (GUNEY)/ BOLGE: Adana Governor Cahit Kirac paid a visit to the Ceyhan and Yumurtalik districts. Kirac, who went to the construction site of the BTC (Baku-Tibilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline) to conduct studies on the site, announced that BTC's end in Ceyhan would be opened a month later. Kirac later paid visits to Ceyhan and Yumurtalik subgovernors and to the Mayor of Ceyhan.

4. ZAMAN: Adana Governor Cahit Kirac, Adana Mayor Aytac Durak, Adana Security Director Mehmet Cebe and AKP Provincial Chairperson Abdullah Dogru met briefly with State Minister Ali Babacan at the Sakirpasa Airport of Adana, reportedly talking about the issue of Adana's unfinished light metro construction. Babacan arrived in Adana to change planes during his trip from Nigde to Istanbul.

5. RADIKAL / HURRIYET / ZAMAN / OZGUR GUNDEM: Four soldiers died and four more were wounded when a military vehicle hit a remote controlled mine at 9 a.m. on the Hakkari-Cukurca road in Hakkari. Separately, four soldiers were wounded in a conflict that broke out in a village of Cukurca. Ozgur Gundem claims that Turkish Armed Forces allegedly used chemical weapons during the military operations in Hakkari.

6. ZAMAN / OZGUR GUNDEM: Zaman daily continues to report on the July 6 killing of Hikmet Fidan, former HADEP Deputy National Chairperson. (see press summary 07/18.) According to a report, the initial findings reveal that the "execution" was allegedly committed by the PKK. The article notes that the perpetrators were definitely professionals. According to specialists, following the fragmentation in PKK after Ocalan's capture, a "Kurdish Red Apple Coalition" was formed, notes the paper. The paper alleges that there is currently a dispute between this coalition, which is close to the supporters of increased terrorism in Turkey to block Turkey's EU accession, and the people, who want to resolve the Kurdish issue. Ozgur Gundem quotes DEHAP National Chairperson Tuncer Bakirhan as dismissing the allegations blaming Kurdish politicians for not embracing willingly Fidan's case.

7. OZGUR GUNDEM: DEHAP National Chairperson Tuncer Bakirhan said that efforts were under way to form a delegation that would try to work out a solution for Private Kirandi's release.

8. OZGUR GUNDEM: A research assistant from Dicle University's Faculty of Theology, who specialized on the sociology of religion, noted that steps should be taken to prevent the full migration of Syrians from southeast Turkey. He said their migration has been caused mainly by the conflict in the southeastern region.

9. RADIKAL / OZGUR GUNDEM: A lawsuit has reportedly been opened against the Rector of Van's Yuzuncu Yil University, Prof. Yucel Askin, and four university administrators, on the charges of "forming a criminal clique to obtain profit."

10. OZGUR GUNDEM: A member of Batman's Private Kurdish Language Course dismissed the claims that its courses would be shut down, and complained that these courses, which should be financially supported and encouraged, were instead rendered as instruments for current political abuse. Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir, who claimed that a language couldn't be cultivated through the private courses, demanded that Kurdish language be supported in public schools, too. Meanwhile, Van Municipality rejected the application of a group which requested authorization for their campaign to collect signatures in

support of "education in one's native language."

¶11. OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper reports that the officials were still not embarking on any efforts to extinguish the fires which broke out ten days ago in Gabar, Cudi and Besta mountains of Sirnak.

¶12. RADIKAL / HURRIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: Ozgur Gundem claims that Second Chief of Staff Ilker Basbug invited journalists to the Office of the Chief of Staff and requested that media "not publish any news that would strengthen the cause of the PKK." All papers report that Basbug even discouraged the usage of a phrase such as "Kurdish intelligentsia."

¶13. RADIKAL: Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff Ilker Basbug said at a briefing held for journalists yesterday that the U.S. administration has decided to capture the leaders of the PKK terrorist organization. Basbug further stated that C-4 explosives were coming to Turkey from Iraq, and since the security forces of Iraq have not been fully formed, Turkey, reserving the right to protect itself, might conduct cross border military operations in the future. In a separate article, the paper quotes the remarks of Dan Fried, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs a saying, "A cross

SIPDIS
border military option would not be the best option to pursue."

¶14. RADIKAL: CHP (Republican People's Party) Deputy National Chairperson Onur Oymen claimed that the U.S. is preventing Turkey from eliminating the presence of the PKK in Northern Iraq.

REID